

SENATE BILL 872
By Burks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-203 and Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 3, relative to the election of director of schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-203(a)(14), is amended by deleting the language "Notwithstanding any other public or private act to the contrary", and by substituting instead the language "Unless the county commission has voted to establish the elected office of director of schools".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-301(a), is amended by deleting the initial word "Each" and by substituting instead the language "Except as provided in subsection (e), each".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-301, is further amended by adding a new subsection (e), as follows:

(e)

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 49-2-203 and this section which provide for director of schools appointed by the local board of education, a county commission may provide for popular election of a director of schools. If the county commission provides for an elected director, the election shall be held at the regular August election provided for in section 2-3-202 on the same basis and subject to the same qualifications as provided for the election of other county officials. A person elected at such election shall take office September 1 following the election and shall serve a term of four (4) years. Any vacancy in the elected office of director of schools shall be filled in the same

manner as a vacancy in any other county office. The director of schools shall receive the same compensation provided for general officers of a county by section 8-24-102.

(2) A candidate for the office of director of schools shall be a person of literary attainment and experience in the art of teaching and school administration, and shall possess a license of qualification issued by the state board of education prior to employment as director of schools. The state board of education shall establish minimum requirements for a license of qualification for director of schools, which shall include, but not be limited to the following:

(A) The applicant shall hold a teacher's professional license with endorsement as principal and/or supervisor of instruction;

(B) The applicant shall hold a master's degree with a major in educational administration to include study areas such as:

- (i) School organization and administration;
- (ii) Supervision, curriculum development and evaluation;
- (iii) School finance, housing and transportation;
- (iv) School and community relationships; and
- (v) Techniques of problem solving by group process.

(C) The applicant shall have had five (5) years' experience to include both teaching and/or administrative experience.

SECTION 4. This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the city or county legislative body and a two-thirds (2/3) vote by public referendum. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the city or county legislative body and certified to the secretary of state.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.

